



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Representative Town Meeting

Moderator Kevin Power, Representatives Jean-Claude Ambroise, Joe Baril, Nancy E. Barnhart, Alicia Bauer, Nancy E. Beckwith, Michael Collins, Nancy M. Congdon, Warren T. Cooper, Luanne E. DeMatto, Syma Ebbin, Nancy E. Gilly, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Keith L. Hedrick, Jonathan Heller, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, Michael Dean Johnson, Rosanne E. Kotowski, Elizabeth Luck, Jackie Massett, Carole McCarthy, Roscoe Merritt, Constance Miller, Karen F. Morton, Scott Newsome, Dana C. Parfitt, Richard J. Pasqualini, Jr., Tim Plungis, Kristen L. Powers, Don Pratt, Betty A. Prochaska, John F. Scott IV, Jack Sebastian, Dana S. Semeraro, Joan Steinfeld, Irma Streeter, Mark Svencer, Archie C. Swindell, Robert A. Warn and Lori A. Watrous

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

7:30 PM

Groton Senior Center

Regular Meeting

A. ROLL CALL

Moderator Kevin Power called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

28 members were present, and a quorum was declared.

The Moderator reported that Reps. Gilly, Harrell, McCarthy, Merritt, Parfitt, Prochaska, Scott and Svencer called to say they are unable to attend this meeting.

Members Present: Moderator Power, Rep. Ambroise, Rep. Baril, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Beckwith, Rep. Collins, Rep. Congdon, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Ebbin, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Hedrick, Rep. Heller, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. Massett, Rep. Miller, Rep. Morton, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Plungis, Rep. Powers, Rep. Semeraro, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Swindell, Rep. Warn and Rep. Watrous

Members Absent: Rep. Cooper, Rep. Gilly, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Johnson, Rep. Luck, Rep. McCarthy, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Parfitt, Rep. Pratt, Rep. Prochaska, Rep. Scott and Rep. Svencer

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Superintendent of Schools Paul Kadri, Town Councilor Bill Johnson, Board of Education member Rita Volkmann, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Assistant Town Clerk Sally Whitney.

B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The members observed a moment of silence followed by the Salute to the Flag led by Rep. Morton.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2011

A motion that the minutes be approved was made by Rep. Beckwith, seconded by Rep. Pasqualini.

The vote to approve the minutes carried 25 in favor, 3 abstentions. (Abstaining: Reps. Sebastian, Steinfeld and Watrous.)

D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

None.

E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

Moderator Power announced that Rep. Pasqualini will be the chairperson for the Consolidation Committee that will be reviewing several departments of the Board of Education and Town Operations for possible consolidation. Members that have been appointed are Reps. Ambroise, DeMatto, Heller, Hubbard, Kotowski, Massett, Semeraro and Streeter.

The Moderator reminded members that their term of office does not expire until December 5, 2011 and that the last meeting of the twenty-seventh RTM will be November 9, 2011.

F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

1. Financial report

Mr. Oefinger reported that the Fund Balance as of June 30, 2011 is approximately \$10 million; the General Contingency balance is \$350,000; the Capital Reserve balance is \$980,629.

2. Monthly briefing

The Town Manager highlighted various items from the Town Manager's News. He reported that the Town's bond rating remains at AA and the rating outlook is "stable".

G. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Mr. Kadri reported that the Board of Education will be voting at its next meeting on the issue of consolidating the three middle schools into two or maintaining all three for the 2012-2013 school year. He explained that the BOE needs to decide now in preparation for the FYE 2013 budget. He mentioned that two of the issues involved in the decision are busing and the need for redistricting to meet State requirements.

He requested volunteers for an ad hoc committee to review and lay out the future of Groton's middle schools. He explained the recent controversy regarding block schedules at Groton schools.

In response to Rep. Ambrose, the Superintendent will review and report back on the vehicular accident at Claude Chester School that resulted in damage to the fence along Route 117. Mr. Kadri noted that he was not aware of this incident and does not know if a concrete barrier had ever been considered. He noted that Route 117 is a State road.

H. LIAISON REPORTS

No reports.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS**1. FINANCE - Chairman Hedrick**

Chairman Hedrick read the minutes of the meeting held on October 12, 2011. (Minutes are attached to the permanent record.)

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Barnhart, seconded by Rep. Baril and so voted unanimously.

2011-0120 Review of Non-Union Positions**REVIEW OF NON-UNION POSITIONS (BOARD OF EDUCATION)**

This matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action for October 12, 2011.

Rep. Beckwith expressed concern about the written dissemination of the individual names of employees and their salaries. She requested that members dispose of this material by shredding. Rep. Steinfeld agreed with Rep. Beckwith and asked if this violates an individual's rights.

The Town Manager and Mr. Kadri clarified that this was the information requested and that it complies with Freedom of Information requirements.

Moderator Power noted that the information requested in this referral has been obtained and that no further action is necessary.

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES - Chairman Pratt

No meeting, no report.

3. EDUCATION - Chairman Swindell

Chairman Swindell read the minutes of the meeting held on October 12, 2011. (Minutes are attached to the permanent record.)

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Power, seconded by Rep. Ebbin.

A correction to the minutes to rectify names and titles was requested.

A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Moderator Power, seconded by Rep. Bauer and so voted unanimously.

2011-0183 Various Board of Education Budgetary Questions

VARIOUS BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

This matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action for October 12, 2011.

The Moderator clarified that the written response from the BOE will be forwarded to all members.

Rep. Kotowski noted that BOE Business Manager Carolyn Dickey has agreed to provide a budget document and information on health insurance in the proposed budget similar to that provided for Town Operations on page 146 of the budget book.

4. RECREATION - Chairman Warn

No meeting, no report.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY - Chairman Parfitt

No meeting, no report.

6. PUBLIC WORKS - Chairman Collins

No meeting, no report.

7. RULES & PROCEDURES - Chairman Scott

No meeting, no report.

9. CONSOLIDATION - Chairman Pasqualini

No meeting, no report.

J. OTHER BUSINESS

2011-0186 2012 RTM Meeting Schedule

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2012 RTM MEETING SCHEDULE

WHEREAS, Freedom of Information Statutes require filing a calendar-year schedule of meetings with the Town Clerk, and

WHEREAS, the Representative Town Meeting has met regularly on the second Wednesday of each month, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Representative Town Meeting hereby approves the meeting schedule for 2012 as follows:

Wednesday, January 11, 2012

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Wednesday, March 14, 2012

Wednesday, April 11, 2012

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Wednesday, June 13, 2012

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Wednesday, August 8, 2012

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Wednesday, October 10, 2012

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Wednesday, December 12, 2012 and

Wednesday, January 9, 2013

A motion was made by Moderator Power, seconded by Rep. Pasqualini Jr., that this matter be Adopted for October 12, 2011.

In response to Rep. Collins, the Town Clerk stated that the RTM is approving the meeting dates and it is not necessary to approve the location.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 27 - Moderator Power, Rep. Ambrose, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Beckwith, Rep. Collins, Rep. Congdon, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Ebbin, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Hedrick, Rep. Heller, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. Massett, Rep. Miller, Rep. Morton, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Plungis, Rep. Powers, Rep. Semeraro, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Swindell, Rep. Warn and Rep. Watrous
Opposed: 1 - Rep. Baril

In response to Rep. Sebastian's comments, the Moderator clarified that the Consolidation Committee is reviewing specific departments of the Town and BOE such as Human Resources, Information Technology, and Finance that could be consolidated. The Committee is not reviewing the Police Department.

In response to Rep. Semeraro, the Town Manager noted that the issue regarding the house located at Burnett's Corners on Packer Road is probably proceeding to litigation. He explained that the Town has received no response from the owner to the certified mail requesting that the property be either repaired or demolished. The Town Manager stated that he will provide an updated report after consulting with the Town Attorney.

K. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:26 p.m. was made by Rep. Barnhart, seconded by Rep. Pasqualini and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the RTM*

Sally A. Whitney, Assistant Town Clerk